Statement

The Joint Action Plan Regarding Indo-EU Summit

The Joint Action Plan, *inter alia*, proposes the setting up of a High Level Trade Group to explore ways and means to deepen and widen bilateral trade and investment relationship, setting up of Joint working Groups, including one on Sanitary and Phytosanitary issues and Technical Barriers to Trade, cooperation in WTO matters, holding a business Round Table together with the EU-India Business Summit, etc. Commerce Secretary and Director General Trade, European Commission have since been identified as co-Chair of the High Level Trade Group and preliminary interactions have been held.

FDI in tabacco sector

*416. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE and INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from tabacco MNCs for FDI in the tabacco sector; and

(b) if so, Government's response to such proposals and the State Policy on FDI in tobacco units?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On public health considerations, Government is not encouraging Foreign Direct Investment in tabacco sector.

India's 6 point strategy for China

*417. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India plans 6-point strategy for China to dent in Chinese market through a well designed action plan aimed at diversifying export

basket from primary products to manufactured items and processed products;

(b) if so, whether any joint study group set up by India and China had given wide ranging recommendations for removing irritants and facilitating bilateral trade.

(c) if so, what are the concrete steps and measures considered by this joint group;

(d) whether any action plan in this regard had been worked out; and

(e) by what time India's 6 point strategy for China has been agreed upon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No specific 6 point strategy has been worked out by the Government for diversifying India's export basket to China.

(b) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

"INDIA'S 6 Point Strategy for China"

(b) and (c) Following the visit of our Prime Minister to China in June, 2003 a Joint Study Group (JSG) was constituted to examine the potential complementarities between the two countries in expanding trade and economic cooperation. The JSG submitted its report during the Chinese Premier's visit to India from 9-12 April, 2005. The Report has recommended several measures in regard to Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investments and other areas of Economic Cooperation between India and China, apart from recommending a India-China Regional Trading Arrangement. The Report recommends a number of measures to expand trade and economic cooperation between India and China and emphasizes on diversification of export basket by both India and China in order to triple the trade between the two countries on a consistent and sustained basis.

(d) A Ministerial level India-China Joint Economic Group (JEG) has been entrusted with considering the recommendations of the JSG and coordinating their implementation. A Joint Task Force will be constituted to study in detail the feasibility of, and the benefits that may derive from,

the India-China Regional Trading Arrangement and give recommendations regarding its content.

(e) Does not arise.

NFWP in Orissa

*418. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the National Food for Work Programme only 18 out of 30 districts have so far been covered in Orissa;

(b) whether Government are aware that Orissa is the most backward and tribal dominated region with the lowest per capita income in the country;

(c) whether the State Government has made a proposal for covering the remaining 12 districts under the above project; and

(d) if so, the status thereof and if not already done, the time frame within which the above 12 districts would also be covered?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) is being implemented in 18 out of 30 districts of Orissa.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Orissa had requested for the inclusion of all the remaining districts for the implementation of NFFWP. Now, however, NFFWP is not to be extended to any other part of the country because the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 has been notified on 7th September, 2005. NFFWP will be merged with the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to be formulated by the State Government under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005. The 18 NFFWP districts in Orissa will all be covered under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in its first phase. The district Gajapati has also been added as the 19th District in which the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) will be implemented along with the 18 existing NFFWP Districts at the initial stage. According to Section 1(3) of the NREG Act, the Act shall be extended to the entire country within 5 years from the date of the enactment of the Act.